

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**  
**(MBHB No. 05-1124)**

Appl. No. : 10/517,960 Confirmation No. 3767  
Applicant : Douglas Ray Duquette  
Filed : 12/14/2004  
TC/A.U. : 3693  
Examiner : VEZERIS, James A.

**COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

Mail Stop Issue Fee  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Examiner,

Applicant thanks Examiner Vezeris for the thorough examination of the application and allowance of the claims. Applicant respectfully submits that the characterization of the invention of the claims in the Examiner's statement for reasons for allowance may not take into account the entirety of the features of the invention reflected in the claims, the specification, and the prosecution history of the application. To that end, Applicant points out that the claims, specification, and prosecution history in their entirety provide an adequate basis for the allowability of the claims.

Applicant also notes that there may be additional reasons that one or more of the claims are allowable that have not been specifically included in the reasons for allowance. Applicant respectfully submits that, notwithstanding the Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance, each of the allowed claims is patentable in its own right, for other reasons raised during prosecution and/or explained in the application.

Additionally, specific parts of the Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance may pertain to features appearing in some of the claims but not others. Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner has thoroughly examined the claims, recognized the features appearing or not

appearing in each of the claims, and properly found each of the claims to be allowable. To the extent that the Examiner has paraphrased claim features, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims have been construed in view of their language in light of the specification and not limited by any of the Examiner's statements or by the recitation therein of any specific claim features.

Further, the statement of reasons for allowance includes statements regarding the disclosure of certain pieces of art. While Applicant does not necessarily agree with these characterizations of what is disclosed by the art, Applicant agrees with Examiner that the claims are allowable over the disclosure of the cited art.

Respectfully submitted,  
McDonnell Boehnen Hulbert & Berghoff LLP

Date: August 3, 2009

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